

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A shoe suspension system adapted for use with a shoe or boot comprising:

an upper sole engaged to ~~the~~ a bottom of the shoe or boot having an upper toe sole and an upper ~~mid~~ heel sole, the upper toe sole being pivotally engaged to the upper ~~mid~~ heel sole;

a lower sole having a lower toe sole and a lower heel sole, ~~a lower mid sole and~~ the lower toe sole pivotally engaged to the [[a]] lower heel sole;

~~a first~~ at least one secondary tandem hinge pivotally engaged between the upper toe sole and the lower toe sole, the secondary tandem hinge adapted to ~~which~~ open[[s]] and close[[s]], maintaining a parallel relationship between the upper toe sole and the lower toe sole ~~parallel to a longitudinal axis of the shoe~~;

a plurality of primary tandem hinges pivotally engaged between the upper ~~mid~~ heel sole and the lower heel sole, the plurality of primary tandem hinges adapted to ~~which~~ open and close ~~parallel to the~~

~~longitudinal axis of the shoe~~ whereas the upper heel sole is held in horizontal synchronization and parallel to the lower heel sole; and

at least one return spring engaged between the upper ~~mid heel~~ sole and the lower sole.

Claims 2-17 (cancel)

18. (new) A shoe suspension system adapted for use with a shoe, the shoe suspension system comprising:

an upper sole engaged to a bottom of the shoe having an upper toe sole and an upper heel sole, the upper toe sole pivotally engaged to the upper heel sole;

a lower sole having a lower toe sole pivotally engaged to a lower heel sole;

at least one secondary tandem hinge engaged between the upper toe sole and the lower toe sole, the secondary tandem hinge adapted to open and close such that the upper toe sole remains parallel and maintains lateral synchronization with respect to the lower toe sole;

a plurality of primary tandem hinges engaged between the upper heel sole and the lower heel sole, the plurality of primary tandem hinges adapted to open and close such that the upper heel sole remains parallel and maintains both horizontal synchronization and lateral synchronization with the lower heel sole; and

at least one return spring engaged between the upper sole and the lower sole.

19. (new) The shoe suspension system adapted for use with a shoe according to claim 18, wherein the primary tandem hinge comprises:

a plurality of hinge pins;

at least two primary hinges pivotally attached at one end to the upper heel sole, the at least two primary hinges pivotally attached at a distal end to the lower heel sole and each of the at least two primary hinges having one of the hinge pins;

at least one primary opposing hinge pivotally attached at a first end to the upper heel sole, the at

least one primary opposing hinge pivotally attached at a distal end to the lower heel sole and each of the at least one primary opposing hinges having one of the hinge pins;

a primary connecting rod linking each hinge pin of each of the at least two primary hinges;

an opposing connecting rod linking the hinge pins of the at least one primary opposing hinge, the opposing connecting rod slideably engaged with the primary connecting rod, thereby keeping the hinge pins in a common plane; and

at least one spring urging the lower heel sole away from the upper heel sole.

20. (new) The shoe suspension system adapted for use with a shoe according to claim 18, wherein at least one of the plurality of primary tandem hinges is configured at right angle to another of the plurality of primary tandem hinges.

21. (new) A shoe suspension system adapted for use with a shoe, the shoe suspension system comprising:

an upper sole engaged to a bottom of the shoe;

a lower sole;

a plurality of hinge pins;

at least two primary hinges pivotally attached at one end to the upper heel sole, the at least two primary hinges pivotally attached at a distal end to the lower heel sole and each of the at least two hinges having one of the hinge pins;

at least one primary opposing hinge pivotally attached at a first end to the upper heel sole, the at least one primary opposing hinge pivotally attached at a distal end to the lower heel sole and each of the at least one primary opposing hinges having one of the hinge pins;

a primary connecting rod linking each hinge pin of each of the at least two primary hinges;

a primary opposing connecting rod linking the at least one hinge pin of the primary opposing hinges to the primary opposing connecting rod, the primary opposing connecting rod slideably engaged with the primary connecting rod, thereby keeping the hinge pins in a common plane; and

at least one return spring engaged between the upper sole and the lower sole.